



# Mississippi Department of Human Services Press Release



Media Contact: Julia Bryan

Phone: 601-359-4517

Release Date: November 26, 2012

## MDHS Investigators Uncover over \$159,000 in Fraud

(JACKSON, Miss.) — In recent months, Program Integrity investigators from the Mississippi Department of Human Services helped bust individuals across the state trying to defraud a program that provides assistance to those in need. Through their efforts, over \$159,000 will be repaid to taxpayers in restitution and fines.

SNAP and TANF fraud are usually the result of a client withholding income or household information that would deem them ineligible to receive benefits. Disqualification periods for SNAP fraud can range from 12 months for the first violation to permanent disqualification. Ineligibility is determined by state and federal mandates and can be ordered by the courts as part of sentencing.

MDHS Director of Fraud Investigations Kenneth Palmer said, “SNAP is designed to help low-income people put food on the table. SNAP fraud, however, hurts everyone. The local store where purchases would have been made loses revenue and, of course, the family suffers because of the loss of benefits that would have allowed for appropriate food purchases.”

Small “mom and pop” grocers are usually the type of stores targeted by those trying to defraud a system in place to help those who are at risk of food insecurity, such as the elderly and children. Local residents can help spot fraud in their grocery stores. If you suspect a store owner, clerk or client is misusing SNAP benefits, call the Fraud Hotline at 1-800-299-6905. SNAP fraud is a crime.

### STATEWIDE SNAP ARRESTS

NAME, LOCATION	RESTITUTION, FEES, FINES	SENTENCE	SNAP DISQUALIFICATION PERIOD
Barbara A. Horton, Lena	\$28,195	Three years suspended, five years supervised probation	12 months
Amber L. Moudy, Canton	\$13,437	Court withheld acceptance of the defendant’s plea pending successful completion of five years of probation	Permanent
Vickie Dent, Braxton	\$12,295	Three years suspended, five years supervised probation	12 months
Shanisha F. Williams, Greenville	\$9,756	Three years to serve concurrent with the federal sentence the defendant is currently serving	12 months
Catherine Richmond, Leland	\$8,901	18 months, not to exceed three years, Pre-Trial Diversion Program	12 months
Datriene Y. Kennedy, Greenville	\$8,667	Three years to serve on MDOC post-release supervision	24 months

\*More Next Page\*

Robbin F. Simmons, Saltillo	\$8,588	Three years MDOC Non-Adjudicated	12 months
Angela E. Phinisee, Morton	\$8,092	If defendant fails to adhere to Non-Adjudicated court order, then sentencing will be imposed of three years to serve	24 months
Vergia Battle, Batesville	\$7,824	Court withheld acceptance of the defendant's plea pending successful completion of five years of probation	24 months
Tiffany T. Thompson, Pearl	\$7,817	Three years suspended, five years supervised probation	Permanent
Romanda L. Williams, Lena	\$7,796	Three years suspended, five years supervised probation	12 months
Rosie Jones, Mathiston	\$7,714	Serve one day in jail, remainder of the three year sentence on post-release supervision	Permanent
Susan Alexander, Newton	\$7,512	Three years, non-adjudicated with non-reporting/unsupervised probation	12 months
Leola M. Bogan, Morton	\$7,443	One year with six months to serve in the Scott County Jail and six months supervised house arrest	Permanent
Janice D. Gammage, Meridian	\$6,729	Three years suspended, three years supervised probation	24 months
Kimberly L. Bailey, Horn Lake	\$6,183	To serve three days, two years post-release supervision	12 months
Kathleen H. Cassidy, Jackson	\$2,095	Three years of post-release supervision	12 months
Charity L. Harrington, Louisville	\$196		TANF fraud

###